

NEWSBYTES

May 25, 2022

No. 1067

Since 2001

A ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Will The Russian Threat Push Europe Into Becoming The Revived Roman Empire?



For decades, Christians have speculated on whether or not the European Union is the final world empire outlined in the Bible. The Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation point to a revived Roman Empire that will appear in the end times (Daniel 7:23; Revelation 17:10).

Since World War II, prophecy watchers have paid careful attention to the slow and steady unification of western Europe. The alliance now known as the EU has faced

numerous growing pains along the way. These include squabbles over a single currency, trade rules, debt bailouts, Brexit, and hundreds of issues.

The latest infighting centers around the EU's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. While some EU members have called for a complete embargo of Russian oil and natural gas, others have made it clear they will never agree to such restrictions. For example, Germany claims they can move forward with a ban on Russian oil by year end, but Hungary has unequivocally said, "No." Without Russian supplies, Hungary runs out of energy. Germany does too. The only difference is its leaders continue to delude themselves into believing they can survive with zero Russian energy.

The EU put itself in a terrible position of weakness. Entering 2022, they were dependent on Russia for 30% of their oil and almost half of their natural gas. When the EU supported sanctions against Russia following its invasion of Ukraine, the international banking system cut off Russia's foreign dollar and euro reserves. This meant if Russia continued to accept dollar and euro payments, they would be trading oil and gas in exchange for worthless currency they couldn't spend.

So what did they do? Russia demanded payment in either rubles or hard currency such as gold. European leaders threatened to sue for breach of contract. They vowed never to accept such an arrangement and threatened any European energy company that dared to comply. That was last month. Today, dozens of European countries and companies are paying for Russian oil and gas with rubles. The latest is French energy group Engie, whose largest shareholder is the French government.

When it comes to foreign policy, the EU is divided. Each nation continues to operate its own foreign policy. They can't agree and rarely speak in one voice. To me, this failure to agree is yet another reason to believe some form of the EU will become Daniel's prophesied final empire. Why? Because this EU characteristic aligns with the empire Daniel describes.

For instance, the Bible says this final world empire will be a kingdom:

- Divided (Daniel 2:41)
- Made up of weak and strong nations (Daniel 2:42)
- Of nations trying to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other (Daniel 2:43)
- That fails to hold together or "gel," just as iron and clay don't stick together (Daniel 2:43)
- From among the ancient Roman Empire (Daniel 9:26-27)

A Global Empire

Right now, no empire rules the world, much less a global empire of ten nations or ten kings. This means the EU in its present form is not the global empire foreseen by Daniel. However, this doesn't mean it won't become that empire. Most likely, it's an early stage of what will become the Antichrist's global empire. Why? Again, the EU fits every one of the characteristics outlined above. The Antichrist's empire will be:

1) A Revived Roman Empire - The global empire from Daniel's vision is built on the ashes of the ancient Roman Empire. Why do I say this? First, the ruler of this global empire is the Antichrist. According to Daniel, the Antichrist will arise from the nation whose armies destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (Daniel 9:26). That nation was Rome. So the global empire's ruler will come from Rome.

Second, when explaining Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Daniel described five empires that will rule Israel before Jesus returns. Those empires were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and a ten nation alliance (Daniel 2:36-45). He describes each successive kingdom, but he makes no distinction between the fourth kingdom and the ten nation alliance (Daniel 2:40-43). In other words, the ten nation alliance will be a new form of the fourth kingdom - Rome.

Later, Daniel has another vision. This time, he sees four beasts, each representing a world power that will conquer Israel (Daniel 7). We know the fourth beast is Rome because it conquers the third beast, Greece (Daniel 7:6). But we also know it will come back. Why? Because it "will rule the whole earth" (Daniel 7:23), and it will be ruled by the Antichrist (Daniel 7:24-25). Rome neither ruled the whole earth nor was it ruled by the Antichrist. Also, this empire is yet again described as a ten nation alliance (Daniel 7:20), and the ancient Roman Empire never took the form of a ten nation alliance.

Today, the EU sits on the ashes of the ancient Roman Empire. Ancient Rome occupied nearly every part of the current EU member nations, including Italy - home to Rome itself.

2) A Divided Alliance, Loosely Held Together - The global empire Daniel described will also be divided (Daniel 2:41). It will struggle to hold itself together, just as iron and clay struggle to hold themselves together (Daniel 2:43). Do we see this type of alliance when we look at the EU? Absolutely!

Since its inception, the EU has harbored an odd collection of politicians, governments, economies, currencies, and militaries. From the Schuman Declaration in 1950 to the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007, the rise of the EU has been marked by a struggle to agree on important issues. These include arguments over a single currency (the United Kingdom and Denmark opted out), disagreements over how to handle debt crises (the Greek bailouts), and disputes over open borders (the Syrian refugee crisis). Each step along the way, the EU struggled to survive.

Until recently, Brexit was the latest example. Critics pointed to Brexit as evidence the EU is not the coming global empire. But the exact opposite is true. Brexit is a perfect example of the EU's struggle to stay together, "just as iron and clay don't hold together."

Now, the EU's dividing issue is how to deal with Russia. Arm Ukraine? To what extent? Ban Russian imports or pay for oil and gas in rubles? Yet again, EU member countries can't agree on a unified policy. It's the latest example of why the EU is a "divided alliance" (Daniel 2:41). It's a union of weak and strong nations struggling to bond together (Daniel 2:43), and this is exactly how the Bible described the final world empire.

3) An Alliance of Weak and Strong Nations - As I write this, the EU contains the world's 4th, 6th, and 7th largest economies (Germany, the United Kingdom, and France). And yes, I'm still counting the UK as part of the EU. When the pro-EU politicians come back into power (which is probably only one election away, given the massive food and fuel inflation we're seeing), and the UK remains out, then I might concede the UK is no longer part of the EU. Until then, I still count it as part of the EU. The EU also contains the world's 113th, 114th, and 132nd largest economies (Iceland, Cyprus, and Malta).

When it comes to military spending, the EU contains the world's 4th, 6th, 7th, and 11th largest militaries (the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy). Yet, it also contains the world's 78th, 79th, 87th, and 90th (Lithuania, Bulgaria, Latvia, and Estonia).

Alone, not a single EU nation is a world power. Together, they are the world's greatest economic power. Combined, their military spending is second only to the United States. In fact, several European politicians have called for an EU army. Don't doubt it - the EU is a superpower. It's a revived Roman Empire made up of weak and strong nations. And this is what the Bible says will exist just before Jesus returns.

Vassal States of Russia?

In a world governed through the use of force, many geopolitical experts say the reality is the EU has become a collection of Russian satellite states. Despite all the grandstanding over Russia sanctions and threats of military force, the cold harsh reality is Europe needs Russia's fossil fuels. Without Russian oil and natural gas, the lights go out. Industry comes to a screeching halt. Come winter, people freeze. This means, on the world stage, the EU is in a position of weakness.

They're beholden to Russia. They don't resemble anything close to a world superpower. Therefore, the conventional wisdom says Europe's power on the world stage is fading and will soon come to an end. But I would argue this is exactly the state the Bible says the final world empire will be in just prior to devouring the world. If the EU is the world empire described in the Book of Daniel, then its current weakness will soon transform into overwhelming strength. But how?

We don't know for sure how this will happen, but we could be witnessing the seeds of this transformation right now. Ironically, the catalyst for change may very well be the state of weakness the EU finds itself in now. Its failure to speak with a single voice when dealing with the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and its reliance on the U.S. and NATO when it comes to defense have led to calls for the creation of a new executive position to formulate a common EU foreign policy and new calls for the creation of an EU army.

In an opinion piece, the foreign ministries of Denmark, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic called for Europe's foreign ministers to "give the EU's new high representative greater leeway to respond to rapid developments when core European values are at stake and allow the EU to become more agile and proactive on foreign policy."

When the EU finally decides to assert itself on the world stage, it will become a mighty superpower. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has likely moved that day closer to reality. It highlights the weaknesses of current EU institutions. This will likely spur significant change in those institutions.

What Happens Next?

Look for EU advocates to push for greater unification, particularly in regard to a unified foreign policy backed with the threat of a EU military force. The current disagreements appear to show weakness, but this weakness won't last. All the volatility we've seen so far makes it more likely the EU is an early phase of the alliance Daniel described. It's the mirror image of the revived Roman Empire the Bible says will appear in the last days (Daniel 2:40-43, Daniel 7:23-24).

It's made up of weak and strong nations (Daniel 2:42). It's divided against itself (Daniel 2:41), and the effort of these nations to come together and strengthen themselves is volatile and unstable (Daniel 2:43). These bible verses sound a lot like the EU, don't they? I sure think so.

If the current crisis in Ukraine results in a single EU foreign policy and a unified EU military, the EU will take one more step toward becoming the global empire Daniel described. Keep looking up, because Jesus is coming!

All Eyes on Israel and Iran

By Geri Ungurean

*Published on: **May 22, 2022** by **RRadmin7** raptureready.com*

From foxnews.com:

Iran Weeks Away from Acquiring Materials for First Nuclear Weapon, Israeli Defense Minister Says

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz warned that action is needed to keep Iran at bay.

While the U.S. and Iran have so far failed to agree on terms for a new nuclear agreement, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz warned that the Islamic nation is just weeks away from having the necessary materials for a nuclear weapon.

Gantz tweeted the claim in Hebrew when posting about remarks he delivered at Israel's Reichman University. The Jerusalem Post reported on the speech, relaying that Iran currently produces uranium at an enrichment level of 20% while already having 60 kilograms of 60% enriched material. Uranium enriched at a 90% level is needed for a weapon.

"Iran continues to accumulate irreversible knowledge and experience in the development, research, production and operation of advanced centrifuges," Gantz said during his address, stating that Iran is working on 1,000 new advanced centrifuges, including at an underground facility near Natanz.

Gantz also said that Iran has been keeping inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency from accessing their systems. Gantz said a "multidimensional" international response is needed to prevent all-out war with Iran.

"Today, the prices for tackling the Iranian challenge on the global and regional levels are higher than they were a year ago and lower than they will be within a year," Gantz said.

The defense minister noted that Iran has been making a number of other improvements to their military capabilities, "including cruise missiles, surface-to-surface missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles that have a range of thousands of kilometers."

A nuclear Iran could pose an existential threat to Israel as Iran's leadership has threatened to destroy the Jewish state.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration has been trying to enter into a new nuclear deal with Tehran, years after then-President Donald Trump withdrew from the international Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that critics said did not do enough to prevent an Iranian nuclear weapon in the long term or properly address their ballistic missile program.

Iran has been calling for the U.S. to remove their Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps from the State Department's list of foreign terrorist organizations as part of any agreement. So far, the administration has resisted, as veterans, Gold Star families, and lawmakers in Washington, D.C. have warned not to do this.

At the same time, Iranian leadership faces pressure from its own people, who have been protesting in response to a floundering economy. The protests began last week when the government slashed food subsidies on eggs, milk, chicken, and cooking oil leading to price rises of some 300%. Since then, protests have spread to many areas of the country and, according to observers, have taken on a much more anti-government current.

Protesters, showing no fear of retribution by the state security services, have been heard shouting, "Death to Khamenei! Death to Raisi!" referring to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who has promised to create jobs, lift sanctions, and rescue the economy. Over the weekend, reports said up to five people were killed following a crackdown by authorities. A semi-official government news agency put the number of dead from the protests at one, according to the Associated Press. Source

From medialine.org From 5/18/2022:

Report: US To Participate in Israeli Simulation of Military Strike on Iran

The US military will participate in a major Israeli drill later this month simulating an airstrike on Iran's nuclear facilities, Israel's Channel 13 reported on Tuesday. The drill, part of an exercise dubbed "Chariots of Fire," will include the air-to-air refueling of Israeli fighter jets by US Air Force tanker planes

as they simulate entering Iranian territory and carrying out repeated strikes. The unprecedented collaboration in such a drill is seen as a message to Iran that a military alternative exists if the long-stalled nuclear negotiations in Vienna do not result in an agreement that puts meaningful limits on Iran's nuclear program.

Israel's Kan TV News said dozens of Israeli fighter jets will take part in the exercise. A similar major drill that Israel conducted 10 years ago, when it was reported to be on the verge of launching a real attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, did not include US participation, the TV report said. Against the backdrop of this upcoming drill, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz will meet with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at the Pentagon in Washington on Thursday, and Gen. Michael Kurilla, head of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), arrived in Israel on Tuesday for his first official visit.

On Tuesday, Gantz warned that "the price for tackling the Iranian challenge on a global or regional level is higher than it was a year ago and lower than it will be in a year." The Israeli defense minister said Iran was just a "few weeks" away from amassing sufficient fissile material to build a bomb and was finishing the production and installation of 1,000 advanced centrifuges for enriching uranium.

From jerusalemjane.com

From Israel365news.com:

After Russia Opens Fire on Israel in Syria, Rabbis Consider Possible "Gog-Magog Scenario"

Media reports claim that a Russian S-300 anti-air battery opened fire on Friday night [May 15] against IDF warplanes operating over northwestern Syria, marking the first time Russia has actively interfered with an Israeli air attack in Syria. The fact that the maneuver originated in the 'north' and was executed by Moscow has rabbis in Israel noticing several parallels to the War of Gog and Magog as prophesied in the Book of Ezekiel.

Brothers and sisters in Christ – this is BIG news coming out of the Middle East.

The Ezekiel 38/39 war keeps coming into my mind. And with the news just a couple of days ago about Russia's close nefarious encounter with Israeli aircraft, the pieces of this puzzle are rapidly falling into place.

On Israel's Independence day, Lawmaker Calls to Build Third Temple

BY DAVID SIDMAN

On Thursday, Knesset Member Itamar Ben-Gvir (Jewish Power) entered the Temple Mount on Israel's 74th Independence Day. During his visit, Ben-Gvir **said**: "The time has come to build a Jewish synagogue on the Temple Mount."

Building the Third Temple is a commandment incumbent upon the Jewish people as written in the Book of Exodus:

And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them (Exodus 25:8)

Before ascending the Mount, Ben Gvir emphasized the importance of visiting the Temple Mount, writing: "Jews ascending the Temple Mount today proves that Hamas is an organization of pushovers that will easily surrender. On Israel's 74th Independence Day, it's important that government officials remember that we are an independent nation."

Israel has prevented any effort to build a Temple on the Holy site for fear of Arab backlash. Instead, the Jewish pilgrims visiting the mount are forced to settle for silent prayer, an act recently allowed by the police stationed there.

Ben Gvir was among the more controversial MKs causing a storm when he decided to move his headquarters to the Arab-occupied Jerusalem neighborhood of *Shimon Hatzadik*.

Ben Gvir called for full Israeli control over the holy site in the past. In his opening speech in the Knesset, Ben Gvir lamented the hesitancy of the Israeli government to assert full sovereignty over Jerusalem and, more specifically, the Temple Mount saying: "I will act to ensure that Israeli control returns to Jerusalem and to the Temple Mount specifically."

In 2019, Ben-Gvir and his Otzma Yehudit party came out in support of building the Third Temple in an exclusive interview with *Israel365 News*. However, this was the first time he publicly declared on top of the Temple Mount.